

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY.

St. Louis, Nov. 14 1885

Dr. Asa Gray:

My dear Sir -

I send by this mail Copy of Prof. Prease's Inaugural Address, with other exercises. I think you will like it.

Last Ev. he gave his first lecture to a full audience, & gave clear proof that your selection of a Professor was excellently good. All the indications thus far are in his favor.

You will observe the liberty we have taken in placing your name on the "Advisory Committee," & hope you will not blame me severely. There are many reasons why it will do us good, even if not obliged to trouble you at all, & not improbably the right to ask your advice will strengthen Prof. Prease very much. Thus far, he has succeeded in getting the cordial good will both of Mr. Shaw & Dr. Geo. J. Engelmann.

On the whole the prospect is good for the largest success.

With thanks to you, most especially,

I remain Yrs truly - W. G. Eliot.

I should have asked your consent, but was obliged to act somewhat abruptly.